

**TOWN OF GROTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.
GROTON TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2**

Members Present: C. Nado, E. Cole, and D. Seager
Alternates Present: R. Boardman
Guest Speaker: Carol Kimball

Chairman Nado called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Carol Kimball started the meeting by giving an overview of how Mystic developed. Ms. Kimball stated that the first ferry was from Burrows row, initially at the head of the river. It was an early 19th century ferry near back of Emporium, called the Packer Ferry.

In 1815, there were only a dozen houses in Mystic. There was a petition to build a bridge in 1819. The Portersville church was built in 1829. The community then began to grow. The hotel burned in 1858. Benjamin Franklin Hoxie rebuilt the hotel in 1861, the choice location being "on the way to the bridge".

Ms. Kimball stated that bankrupt Wolf, of Floral Hall, bought the G.S. Allyn center which was the hub of social activity. The Allyn center burned in 1863. Packer and Allyn built Central Hall in 1864. Ms. Kimball stated that Central Hall had roller skating, NY drama companies and Tom Thumb once appeared there.

In 1880, a fire destroyed the stores. There was discussion at that time of building a 2 story rather than a 3 story. In 1881 the new building was under construction. The first floor housed 7 stores and the building footprint was 54 x 18. The second floor, west end, contained a stage and dressing room. The northeast side contained the Masonic Lodge. The front and 3rd story housed offices.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. made by Seager, seconded by Boardman, so voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Cole, Secretary